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Irrigation tank for Mangapatty village, Musiri taluk, Tiruchirappalli district.

* 457 *Q.*—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the villagers of Mangapatty, Musiri taluk, Tiruchirappalli district, have made any representation to the District Collector and Executive Engineer, Tiruchirappalli, requesting the Government to construct an irrigation tank in their village;

(*b*) whether any investigation was made and any estimate prepared;

(*c*) whether the villagers offered to contribute a portion of the cost of the construction; and

(*d*) if so, at what stage the proposal now stands;

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) No representation was made to the District Collector but representations were made to the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer.

" (*b*) A preliminary investigation was made and an approximate estimate prepared.

" (*c*) The villagers did not offer any contribution when making the representations in 1950 and 1952 but it is now reported that the hon. Member has recently written to the Public Works Department saying that the ryots are willing to pay half the cost.

" (*d*) The proposal was dropped as not being feasible due to its prohibitive cost, poor catchment area and poor grow more food value and particularly the fact that it involved the submersion of 150 acres to irrigate 100 acres of land."

Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" What is the approximate cost of the scheme? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The cost of the scheme is estimated to be Rs. 1,25,000."

Variation of bus routes.

* 458 *Q.*—Sri V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether variations of bus routes are given to certain operators in the State?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The answer is in affirmative. Applications for variation of bus routes are considered by the Transport authorities on merits after following the prescribed procedure and variation is granted if there is need for it in the public interest."

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SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR :—" What is the criterion observed in the matter of variation of bus routes? Have Government realized the difficulties of passengers when buses become scarce on account of such variations? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Wherever the Government feel that public interests will be best served by variation of the routes, they do it."

SRI V. S. SIVAPRAKASAM :—" Apart from the variation of bus routes applied for by private operators, in how many cases did the Government on their own motion ordered variation of routes in public interests? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Government do not order such things on their own motion. They order variations only under the revisionary powers vested in them under section 64-A of the Act, which we have since repealed. Government considered individual cases and whenever they found that it would be in public interests to vary any particular route, they ordered such variation."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I ask the Hon. the Minister whether any specific instructions have been given to the Regional Transport Authority and the Central Road Traffic Board to follow a specific policy with regard to variation of bus routes or whether they follow a policy dictated by the whims and fancies of their members? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The formalities prescribed under section 57 of the Motor Vehicles Act are being followed in the matter of variation of routes. Routes are extended only when there is need for extension in the interests of the travelling public."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In that case, may I ask why there is the difficulty that we come across so often—one order is passed by the Regional Transport Authority, another order is passed against it by the Central Road Traffic Board and the Government revise the whole order of the Central Road Traffic Board, all on one application? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, these bodies are quasi-judicial bodies. When a person feels aggrieved by the decision of the lower court, naturally he goes up to the court above it and even there if he does not get his grievances redressed or justice rendered to him, he goes in appeal to the highest authority. That is all the procedure laid down in the Act and that is being followed."